

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On page 1, immediately after the title, please add a new section for the Cross-Reference to Related Applications and a new section heading for the Background as follows:

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This is a U.S. National Stage application of PCT/GB2003/004473 filed 13 October 2003, the entirety of which is incorporated herein by reference. This application also claims the benefit of British Patent Application No. 0223632.1 filed 11 October 2002.

BACKGROUND

At page 2, before the paragraph beginning at line 11, please insert a heading for the Summary and amend the paragraphs at page 2, lines 11 - 18 as follows:

SUMMARY

~~It is an object of~~ One aspect of the present invention ~~to can~~ mitigate some or all of the above disadvantages.

~~It is a particular object~~ Another aspect of several embodiments of the present invention is to provide a testing instrument and method for accurate determination of the dc safe area of operation (SOA), in the high-voltage low-current limit, without risking destruction of the device-under-test, and thus to identify the safe area of operation for the device-under-test.

Please insert the following heading as a separate line before the paragraph at page 11, lines 14 and 15:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Please insert the following heading as a separate line before the paragraph at page 12, lines 6 and 7:

DETAILED DESCRIPTION